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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, known to us in countless ways and times, lead our Senators in Your way. Lord, keep them aware that they can depend on Your validation of every just cause and the forgiveness of every sin which they, in godly sorrow, confess to You. As they follow You, may their small successes prompt them to even greater understanding for human benefit. Guide them by Your higher wisdom and bring them to a desired destination with hearts at peace with You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 4:30 today. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 4:30 the Senate will proceed to executive session with an hour for debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

At 5:30 today the Senate will confirm the nomination of Sue Myerscough, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. There will then be a series of up to three roll-call votes, first on the confirmation of Anthony Battaglia, of California, to be a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California; the confirmation of the nomination of James Shadid, of

Illinois, to a U.S. District Judge for the Central District of Illinois; and the motion to invoke cloture on S. 23, the America Invents Act. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments to S. 23 is 5 p.m. today.

In addition, on Friday, cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1, the Defense appropriations continuing resolution. I hope to reach an agreement to vote on H.R. 1 and the Democratic alternative introduced by Senator INOUE on Friday. We are going to vote on this matter sometime tomorrow, even if it is late tomorrow night.

In addition to completing action on the America Invents Act, the Senate will also begin consideration of the continuing resolution and possibly H.R. 4, the repeal of the 1099 section of the bill we passed last year dealing with health care.

PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, budgets and votes have something very important in common: At their heart, both require and reflect tough choices.

Tomorrow we hope the Senate will vote on the Republican response to the President's budget. That is the so-called H.R. 1. Not only is the United States now focused on it, but the entire world is as well. Then we will vote on the Democratic response. Everyone has done the math and everyone knows how these votes will turn out. It is likely neither proposal will pass, which means neither will reach the President's desk, and we will go back to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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